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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

Bruce Sundlun
Governor

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RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - MAY 1992

Total nonagricultural wage and salary jobs increased 3,500 from April to 418,000 in May. Seasonal gains in Trade, Services and Contract Construction were predominantly responsible for the monthly upturn. On an annual comparison, the May job total remained 8,700 below the year earlier figure of 426,700.

Employment among the state's Service Producing industries stood at 319,500 in May, showing a gain of 3,300 from April, but a decrease of 1,900 compared to a year ago. Wholesale/Retail Trade and Miscellaneous Services employment recorded seasonal increases of 1,600 and 1,400, respectively. Monthly job gains were also evident in Transportation & Public Utilities (+200) and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+100). Government employment showed no change in the April-May period.

The number of jobs in the Goods Producing sector, at 98,500 in May, registered a slight increase (+200) from April; nevertheless, the May total was down 6,800 from the May 1991 level. Contract Construction jobs rose seasonally (+300) over the month; however, the May employment figure of 11,700 showed a decline of 2,000 compared to a year ago. Factory jobs totalled 86,800 in May, representing a monthly decrease of 100 and an annual reduction of 4,800. Manufacturers of Nondurable Goods posted a monthly loss of 100 jobs while employment in Durable Goods was unchanged. Monthly job gains of 100 each in Fabricated Metals and Jewelry-Silverware were more than offset by downturns of 100 each in Transportation Equipment, Instruments and Chemical Products. Job totals for the fourteen remaining factory segments - six in Durable Goods and eight in Nondurable Goods - were unchanged from April.

The May work week averaged 40.6 hours, up one hour from the prior month and 0.8 of an hour from a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.80 per hour in May, down three cents from April, but up nine cents compared to the May 1991 level.

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May was unchanged from the April estimate of 9.3 percent. The State's unadjusted rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point - from 9.6 percent in April to 9.4 percent in May. Corresponding to this decline, the jobless total dropped to 48,700 in May from an estimated 49,600 in April. A year ago, the seasonally adjusted and unadjusted Rhode Island rates were estimated at 8.2 and 8.3 percent, respectively, while the number of unemployed stood at 42,600. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted rate rose to 7.5 percent in May, from the previous month's estimate of 7.2 percent. The U.S. unadjusted rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point - from an estimated 7.1 percent in April to 7.2 percent in May. One year ago, the unemployment rates for the nation were placed at 6.8 percent (adjusted) and 6.6 percent (unadjusted).

R.I. DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
&
WORKFORCE 2000

BUSINESS / INDUSTRY REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

The Workforce 2000 Council plans to issue business / industry Requests for Proposals (RFPs) this summer. Definite dates have yet to be determined. The RFPs will focus on business- / industry-specific training programs. RFPs for target populations and literacy activities were issued in April for programs to begin on or after July 1, 1992, and Fifty-three proposals (thirty-four for target population, nineteen for literacy) were received.

For the upcoming RFP issue, Workforce 2000 has started a mailing list of employers who will be sent information as it becomes available. Employers interested in being on this list may call 277-6700 and ask for Melissa Wood.

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Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR. For additional information contact LABOR MARKET INFORMATION at 277-3706. TDD Voice: 277-3718.

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	May 1992	Apr.* 1992	May* 1991	
Civilian Labor Force	518.2	516.5	513.1	
Resident Employment	469.5	466.9	470.5	
Unemployment	48.7	49.6	42.6	
Rate (Unadjusted)	9.4	9.6	8.3	
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	9.3	9.3	8.2	*Revised

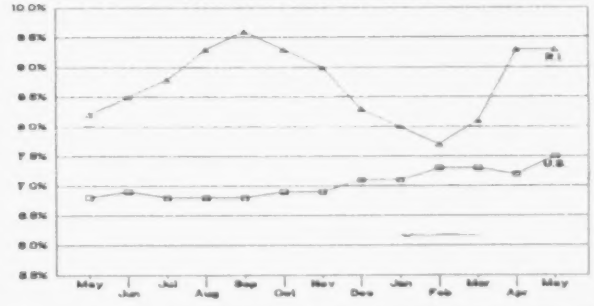
UNITED STATES

Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991
Civilian Labor Force	126,705	125,878	124,857
Resident Employment	117,535	116,933	116,624
Unemployment	9,169	8,945	8,233
Rate (Unadjusted)	7.2	7.1	6.6
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	7.5	7.2	6.8

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Seasonally Adjusted May 91 - May 92



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			NET CHANGE FROM	
	May 1992	Apr. 1992	May 1991	Apr. 1992	May 1991
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	418.0	414.5	426.7	+ 3500	- 8700
GOODS PRODUCING	98.5	98.3	105.3	+ 200	- 6800
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	11.7	11.4	13.7	+ 300	- 2000
MANUFACTURING	86.8	86.9	91.6	- 100	- 4800
SERVICE PRODUCING	319.5	316.2	321.4	+ 3300	- 1900
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	14.3	14.1	14.5	+ 200	- 200
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	87.4	85.8	89.8	+ 1600	- 2400
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	25.1	25.0	26.5	+ 100	- 1400
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	131.1	129.7	129.2	+ 1400	+ 1900
GOVERNMENT	61.6	61.6	61.4	-----	+ 200

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

MAY 1992

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES		
		Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	86.8	397.88	40.6	9.80
DURABLE MFG.	58.0	393.82	40.6	9.70
LUMBER/FURNITURE	2.2	429.26	39.6	10.84
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.2	443.59	40.4	10.98
PRIMARY METALS	3.4	472.16	45.4	10.40
FABRICATED METALS	7.2	368.60	38.8	9.50
NONELECTRIC MACH.	5.0	544.00	44.7	12.17
ELECTRICAL MACH.	4.4	372.84	39.0	9.56
TRANS. EQUIPMENT	6.2	488.68	41.1	11.89
INSTRUMENTS	6.0	443.72	41.2	10.77
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	17.5	315.21	39.9	7.90
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	4.9	367.49	39.6	9.28
NONDURABLE MFG.	28.8	405.41	40.5	10.01
FOOD-BEVERAGE	2.7	383.94	40.5	9.48
TEXTILES	7.7	380.95	42.9	8.88
APPAREL	1.2	244.65	35.0	6.99
PAPER PRODUCTS	1.5	424.10	43.1	9.84
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	5.3	451.56	31.8	14.20
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.0	489.50	41.1	11.91
RUBBER PRODUCTS	0.7	460.98	39.4	11.70
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	5.0	463.76	43.1	10.76
LEATHER PRODUCTS	1.4	272.34	39.7	6.86

Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures. Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED.